

# Tools Through Time

Compare how older and newer technologies meet similar needs.

**7.19.A** “compare types and uses of technology, past and present;”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the first mention of each past technology and circle the first mention of its present-day partner. Number each matching pair 1, 2, and 3.

### Changing Tools, Continuing Needs

- ① Before electronic messaging, people often wrote letters by hand. A letter carried news, instructions, or personal thoughts, but it traveled only as fast as a person, horse, ship, or mail train could carry it. Today, email sends written messages through computer networks in seconds. Both letters and email allow people to communicate across distance. However, a letter creates a physical paper record, while email can be copied, searched, and sent to many people quickly at once.
- ② Travelers once used a magnetic compass to find direction. The needle pointed north and helped sailors and hikers choose a route. A compass did not give an exact location. Today, GPS receivers use signals from satellites to calculate location and guide users along a route. Both tools help people navigate. However, a compass works without electricity or signal, while GPS can provide precise location and turn-by-turn directions on a screen when satellite signals are available.
- ③ Doctors and nurses once kept a patient's medical information in a paper chart. The chart could hold notes, test results, and medicine lists, but staff had to carry or mail it to another office. Today, electronic health records store similar information in secure digital files. Both systems help health workers track care over time. Electronic records can be shared quickly with authorized workers, while paper charts may be useful when computer systems or power are unavailable.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did letters and email serve the same purpose, and how did their delivery differ?

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**2** Compare the information a magnetic compass gives with the information a GPS receiver can give.

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**3** What is one advantage of electronic health records over paper charts?

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**4** When might a paper medical chart be useful, and why?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose one past technology and one present-day technology that are not named in the passage. Write three sentences that name their shared use and compare at least two differences between them.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the first mention of each past technology and circle the first mention of its present-day partner. Number each matching pair 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                       | ANSWER                                                                                                                                        |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did letters and email serve the same purpose, and how did their delivery differ?           | <b>Both communicate across distance. Letters travel physically and take longer, while email travels through computer networks in seconds.</b> |
| 2 | Compare the information a magnetic compass gives with the information a GPS receiver can give. | <b>A compass gives direction by pointing north. A GPS receiver can calculate a precise location and provide turn-by-turn directions.</b>      |
| 3 | What is one advantage of electronic health records over paper charts?                          | <b>Electronic health records can be shared quickly with authorized health workers.</b>                                                        |
| 4 | When might a paper medical chart be useful, and why?                                           | <b>It may be useful when computer systems or power are unavailable because it does not depend on them.</b>                                    |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

A typewriter and a word-processing app are technologies for creating written documents. Both help people put words on a page, but a typewriter prints directly on paper and changes are difficult. A word-processing app saves digital text and lets users revise or share it quickly.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately state a shared use and a difference supported by the passage. For the open task, accept any accurate past-present pair not named in the passage, as long as the response includes a shared use and at least two differences.